

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 20, 25 and 27 as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second U-shaped spaced apart end members;

providing a telescoping U-shaped trough with first and second trough sections, the first and second trough sections each having a terminal end and a receiving end, the receiving ends of the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another, the terminal ends of the first and second trough sections having the same connecting configuration such that the telescoping U-shaped trough is reversible;

positioning the reversible telescoping U-shaped trough between the first and second end members; and

connecting the terminal ends of the first and second trough sections of the reversible telescoping U-shaped trough to the first and second end members, wherein the receiving ends of the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable relative to one another during use of the completely assembled cable routing system so that the first and second trough sections slide relative to one another when only one terminal end of ~~upon disconnecting at least one of the first~~ and second trough sections is disconnected from the respective first and second end member members.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second end members, the end members being spaced apart a fixed distance;

providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second trough sections having joined ends, the joined ends of the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another;

positioning the telescoping cable trough between the first and second end members; and

selectively connecting the first trough section to either one of the first and second end members, the first trough section being connectable to both of either one of the first and second end members; and

connecting the second trough section to the other of the first and second end members;

wherein the joined ends of the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable relative to one another during use of the completely assembled cable routing system so that the first and second trough sections slide relative to one another when only one connected end of
~~upon disconnecting at least one of the first and second trough sections is disconnected~~ from the respective first and second end ~~member~~ members.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selectively connecting the first and second trough sections to the first and second ends members includes connecting the first trough section to the first end member.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selectively connecting the first and second trough sections to the first and second ends members includes connecting the first trough section to the second end member.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of providing a telescoping cable trough includes providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second slideable trough sections having substantially the same coupling profile for selectively coupling one of the first and second trough sections to either of the first and second end members.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another to fit between the first and second end members.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including engaging flanges of the second trough section with slots formed in the first trough section and sliding the trough sections relative to one another.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another until a slot and tab connection of the telescoping cable trough stops further sliding movement.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including varying an overall length of the telescoping cable trough during assembly by:

a) retracting the telescoping cable trough to position the cable trough between the first and second end members; and

b) expanding the telescoping cable trough to connect the first and second sections to the first and second end members.

Claims 10-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second cable trough members, each of the cable trough members having ends;

providing a telescoping trough with first and second trough sections, the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another, sliding movement of the first and second trough sections being limited between a minimum extension position and a maximum extension position by a tab and slot connection, the tab and slot connection preventing-to-prevent sliding separation of the first and second trough sections while permitting sliding contact of the first and second trough sections between the minimum extension position and the maximum extension position;

positioning the telescoping trough between the ends of the first and second cable trough members; and

connecting the first and second trough sections to the ends of the first and second cable trough members, wherein the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable upon disconnecting at least one of the first and second trough sections from the respective end of the first and second trough members.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing the telescoping trough includes providing a U-shaped telescoping trough.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing the telescoping trough includes providing a telescoping trough with first and second trough sections having substantially the same coupling profile for selectively coupling one of the first and second trough sections to either of the ends of the first and second cable trough members.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another to fit between the ends of the first and second cable trough members.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further including engaging flanges of the second trough section with slots formed in the first trough section and sliding the trough sections relative to one another.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another until the [[a]] slot and tab connection of the telescoping trough stops further sliding movement beyond the maximum extension position.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further including varying an overall length of the telescoping trough during assembly by:
- a) retracting the telescoping trough to position the telescoping trough between the ends of the first and second cable trough members; and
 - b) expanding the telescoping trough to connect the first and second trough sections to the ends of the first and second cable trough members.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another until ~~a stop located at a terminal end of one of the first and second trough sections~~ the tab and slot connection of the telescoping trough stops further sliding movement beyond the minimum extension position.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing the telescoping U-shaped trough includes providing the first and second trough sections in sliding contact, sliding movement of the first and second trough sections being limited between a maximum extension position and a minimum extension position to prevent separation of the first and second trough sections.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of providing the telescoping cable trough includes providing the first and second trough sections in sliding contact, sliding movement of the first and second trough sections being limited between a maximum extension position and a minimum extension position to prevent separation of the first and second trough sections.